

HAMATEURCHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs -
since 1917

Volume II No. 5 - May, 2003

From The President's Desk

This month I'd like to talk about success, small successes and large ones too! I'll start with a quote from President Calvin Coolidge:

PERSISTENCE

"Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence.

Talent will not: Nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent.

Genius will not: Unrewarded genius is almost a proverb.

Education will not: The world is full of educated derelicts.

Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent!

"PRESS ON!"

The reason for this erudite quote is the recent persistence and determination displayed by our technical committee. In case you haven't noticed, our club repeater is back on the air with a vengeance! Enough of the work on the tower has been done to provide us with an amazing machine! You have to understand that prior to this move; my access to the repeater required a high wattage amplifier, a high gain antenna and some good band conditions. Now, I still use the "good antenna", but I get into the repeater with 5 to 10 watts depending on the amount of hiss I want to allow myself. Others have reached the machine with full quieting from under the tunnel on Howell Avenue... don't know if there were

any airplanes going by at the time!

Some time ago our previous President gave the technical committee the task of making the repeater reachable from within Milwaukee County, using an HT and 5 watts. They have done that and a big "thank you" goes from me and should go from every one else out there with the potential to use our machine. We should also remember to thank those other folks, not even club members, yet they gave of their time and expertise to get the job done. To those fine gents... Thanks from all of us!



Our President,
Patrick Moretti
W9UQ

KARMA

Somewhere it is written that no good deed goes unpunished. In this case Murphy or whoever wrote that idiom was wrong! Some of you may remember that we were asked if we would be willing to give up our "coordinated" frequency for another. It seemed that the folks that ran the 145.39 repeater before had major problems with interference from the same frequency in Illinois. Our 147.045 frequency was unhampered and because these fellows were moving to higher ground, if we didn't switch frequencies with them, they would have some real problems. Your board deliberated for a few minutes and because it seemed the right thing to do, we voted to make the change! No strings attached. The Karma part of it comes next! These fine folks found out that our repeater had the potential of loosing its home and they heard we were looking for a new site... With little discussion, a new site was offered and the rest is history as we now enjoy beautiful coverage and performance from our repeater on

club officers

President (262) 965-3860
Patrick Moretti W9UQ

Vice Pres. (262) 789-5333
Kevin Reeme KC9BZU

Secretary (414) 529-2512
Tom Schulte AB9EK

Treasurer (414) 357-6522
Mark Tellier AB9CD

Board of Directors

Pancho Doneis KA9OFA
(01-03) (414) 344-4694

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(01-03) (414) 259-9091

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Continued on pg 2

Milwaukee Area Nets

| DAY | TIME | MHz | ACTIVITY | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------------------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------------------|---|
| Daily | 6:00 PM | 1.895 | MidEast 160 mtr. Net | Tue. | 8:30 PM | 223.500 | X-Country Simplex Group (FM) |
| Daily | 6-8:00 AM | 14.290 | Wisconsin/Florida (SSB) | Tue. | 9:00 PM | 50.160 | 6 mtr. SSB Net. |
| Daily | 7:30 AM | 144.155 | Breakfast RoundTable (SSB) | Wed. | 8:00 PM | 28.365 | 10/10 Internat. (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB) |
| Daily | 6:30 PM | 3.645 | WI Slow Speed CW Traffic | Wed. | 8:00 PM | 145.130 | ARRL voice news |
| Mon.-Sat. | 12:00 PM | 28.380 | 10/10 International Net | Wed. | 8:00 PM | 147.270+ | Weather & Swap net. |
| Mon. | 8:00 PM | 3.994 | Tech Net | Wed. | 9:00 PM | 145.130 | AMSAT net |
| Mon. | 8:00 PM | 146.865- | ARES Net (Walworth and ARRL news) | Thu. | 9:00 PM | 50.160 | 6 mtr. SSB Net. |
| Mon. | 8:00 PM | 146.445 | Emergency Net | Thu. | 9:00 PM | 146.910- | Computer Net |
| Mon. | 8:00 PM | 146.865- | ARES Net (Walworth) | Fri | 8:30 PM | 28.490 | MRAC W9RH 10 meter Net (SSB) |
| Mon. | 8:45 PM | 146.670- | ARRL voice news (ARES) | Fri. | 9:00 PM | 145.390- | W9RH 2 mtr. FM Net after 10mtr. |
| Mon. | 9:00 PM | 50.160 | 6 mtr.SSB NET | Sat | 9:00 PM | 146.910- | Saturday Night Fun Net |
| Mon. | 9:00 PM | 146.670- | ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha) | Sun. | 8:30 AM | 3.985 | QCWA (Chptr 55) (SSB) |
| Tue. | 9:00 AM | 50.160 | 6 Mtr. 2nd Shifter's SSB Net | Sun. | 9:00 AM | 145.565 | X-Country Simplex Group (FM) |
| Tue. | 8:00 PM | 144.250 | Badger Contesters (SSB) | Sun. | 10:00 AM | 443.800+ | FM-38 link to 146.88 Baraboo SWAP Net |
| Tue. | 8:00 PM | 7.035 | A.F.A.R. (CW) | Sun. | 8:00 PM | 28.365 | 10/10 International (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB) |
| DAY | TIME | MHz | ACTIVITY | Sun. | 8:00 PM | 146.910- | Information Net |
| | | | | Sun. | 9:00 PM | 146.910-Swap Net Mon-Fri | |

2 meter repeaters are offset by 600KHz -- 70 centimeter repeaters are offset by 5 MHz
SSB frequencies below 20 meters are LSB and for 20 mtrs and above are USB

Prez Cont. from pg. 1

our new frequency of 145.39 (negative 600 offset and PL of 127.3) The Karma was not instantaneous but the results are definitely worth the wait. Again, Thanks to all!

NEXT

The next item on our agenda is Field Day... Remember that day? The one where we go out and feed the mosquitoes, while trying to make radio contacts on someone else's radio that has knobs exactly reversed from yours, on antennas that have wires crossed with the other station's? This is where you learn the true meaning of cross banding (as it refers to antennas). Be there or be square! And remember if you are square, we just might bolt you to a boom and run you up the mast as one of the elements of some far fetched quad! Seriously, do plan to come visit us at our old standby "Pioneer Village" and plan to operate or show someone else how to operate. We will have multiple stations, a variety of radios and enough antennas to go around! We plan to oper-

ate many bands and many modes. We also plan to have a lot of fun – weather permitting, we'll look at sunspots during the day and at various stellar formations at night – after the movie that is... every one seemed to select "Contact" so that will be our projection for the evening... that and popcorn! Do plan to come, plan to stay, bring a friend... operate!

73



Patrick

W9UQ

Programs?

If any of you have a program which would be interesting to our members, please don't be shy about letting us know about it. Or if you know of an interesting program by anyone else for our meetings don't hesitate, let us know about these programs. We'll see what we can do to bring them to reality.

Contact any of our officers. Names and contact are on the front page of 'Chatter.

HamateurChatter

HamateurChatter is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club) which is a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

MRAC Membership dues are \$17.⁰⁰ per year and run on a calendar year starting with January 1.

Our Club/VEC Phone no. is

**(262) 797-MRAC or in numbers
(262) 797- 6 7 2 2.**

Correspondence may
be addressed to:

**M. R. A. C.
P.O. Box 070695
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695**

Our meetings are normally held at 7:00 PM. the last Thursday of the month except for December.

If you have articles or other correspondence for the 'Chatter, please contact Pancho Doneis at: (414) 344-4694 or Email me at: pancho@thepark.net

Membership Meeting Apr. 24, 2003

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 P.M. by the club's president Patrick - W9UQ. The microphone was passed for introductions.

Patrick informed the membership that Mark Tellier - AB9CD has resigned as Vice President and has taken over the duties of the Treasurer. Our new Vice President is now Kevin Reemes, - KC9BZU who was appointed by Patrick.

Howard Parks - AB9FH, needs help with NTS traffic net. His intentions are to relay messages mostly of the ARRL 51 variety as a demonstration at the Wisconsin CHEA Conference-Radiogram booth. The dates are May 8th 5 P.M. to 10 P.M., May 9th 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. and May 10th 8 A.M. to 6 P.M., located at the Olympia Resort & Conference Center in Oconomowoc. He needs someone with an HF rig and antenna for 75 meters.

At March's meeting the membership voted by a show of hands that the club would not have membership cards. Mark - AB9CD had cards made out anyway and anyone attending the club's meeting who has paid their dues will receive a membership card for 2003.

Tom - AB9EK, the club's Secretary, read the minutes of the March meeting. The minutes were approved as read. Mark - AB9CD the club's Treasurer gave the financial report. A show of hands was asked for, that the Treasurer's report be given rounded to the nearest dollar. Membership approved of this. The financial report was approved as read.

The May meeting will be the club's auction and Dave DeFebo - WB9BWP will be the auctioneer. Fred Mikolajewski - KC9WW donated an ICOM IC-

T2H 144 MHz transceiver to the club to be auctioned off at the May meeting. Thank You Fred.

John Kraak - KF9XL gave the Election Committee Report. The committee members are John Kraak - KF9XL, Jack Hughes W9ULA and Sherm Swanson - KB9Q. There are three directors' positions that need to be filled. This is a two year term 2003 to 2005. The following have been nominated and have accepted the nomination for a director position; Pancho Doneis - KA9OFA, Jerry Wahlen - WA9CGE and Dick Wood - W9JBE. John Merkl WB9PSE has decided not to run. The election will be at the May meeting.

There will be VEC testing on April 26th at 9:30 A.M. and then again on May 31st. There will be no testing in June and August. There will be a special testing session in July. Regular testing sessions will again begin in September.

Mark gave a report on the Club's repeater. The repeater is being moved to its new location. During the move, the repeater will be off the air. It is suggested that anyone who normally would use the repeater go to the old frequency of 147.045 until the repeater is back on the air.

Kevin Reemes - KC9BZU is the chairperson of the Membership Committee. He stated that he would like to have a questionnaire at the next meeting for members to fill out. He plans on contacting those members who have not renewed their dues and those who we have not seen in some time. If you think you can help on this committee, contact Kevin.

Field day is coming up in June. Jerry - WA9CGE, still needs station captains. If you

can help in any way please contact Jerry. Patrick stated that he would have a telescope at field day along with a movie to watch on Saturday night. The question on the sign in sheet asked for a movie suggestion. The movie that was mentioned most often is "Contact". Someone have any popcorn to bring?

Pancho Made a motion and D.J. seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 P.M. Meeting adjourned.

Due to a power failure in March the program was not presented, so Skip - WD9HAS is back tonight to do the Severe Weather Spotting program. Thanks Skip for returning.

Respectfully submitted

Tom Schulte - AB9EK
Club Secretary

Tom Schulte

MRAC VEC - A Exam Schedule

- Saturday, May 31, 2003
9:30 AM - AES
- Saturday, July 26, 2003
9:30 AM - AES

AES is Amateur Electronics Supply and is located at 5700 W. Good Hope Rd. in Milwaukee, WI.



NOAA Weather Radio (NWR)?

5 In this issue of the Chatter we continue to explore NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) and why every household should own a weather alert radio. It should be considered as essential as a smoke alarm.

I live in an area where I can't get NOAA Weather Radio transmissions. Is there another system in place for me to get forecasts, watches and warnings directly from the National Weather Service?

The National Weather Service works in partnership with media outlets across the country to get the most current and accurate weather information to the public. Tune in to your local radio and television stations for the latest weather forecasts, watches and warnings. NWS products and services are also available on the Internet at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov> Delivery of data across the Internet, however, cannot be guaranteed because of potential interruption of service.

Another low-cost method for receiving National Weather Service's (NWS) essential information is now available on a wireless data system. Called the Emergency Managers Weather Information Network, or

EMWIN, this system presents the information directly on your home or office computer in a user-friendly graphics display. Simple mouse clicks immediately retrieve the latest weather and flood warnings, watches, forecasts, statements, observations and other data in text format, along with a sub-set of weather graphics including the national radar summary, and some satellite imagery. In all, over 6500 products are available. Users may set various alarms to be alerted to particular information, whether for their local area or from adjacent areas.

The EMWIN weather information is free; the only cost is for the receiving equipment and inexpensive commercial software. This digital data-stream is available nationwide directly from several satellites and, in an increasing number of locations, in an easier and less costly manner using local radio rebroadcasts and other techniques. This approach provides the necessary redundancy for reliable data reception by a wide variety of users.

EMWIN was designed to be a low-speed (currently 1200 bits per second, but expected to increase),

low-cost alternative for emergency management officials and others that have no access to weather data or have few resources to afford such data. (Even at this current low speed, over 5000 pages of information can be received each day.) It was not designed, however, to replicate such other existing weather dissemination systems as NOAA Weather Radio (NWR). For more information about EMWIN, visit the following EMWIN web site at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/oso/oso1/oso12/document/emwin.htm>

How can I help my community get NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts?

The goal of the National Weather Service and emergency preparedness agencies is to expand the reach of weather radio broadcasts to cover 95 percent of the U.S. population. Innovative partnerships between the NWS, private industry, and state and local governments are fueling this expansion. You can help foster such partnerships in your community. For more information concerning developing a partnership with the NWS, contact your local weather service office.

Brian KF9LCO

Next month is the final installment about NWR.

New Member

Welcome our newest member,
Grant Beutner, W9BTH



Exam Requirements

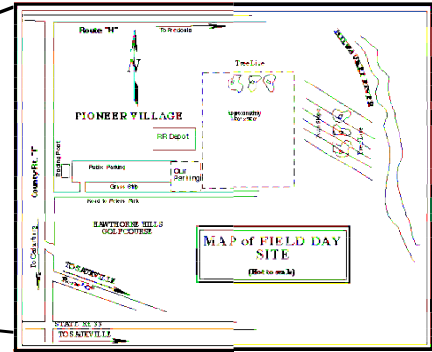
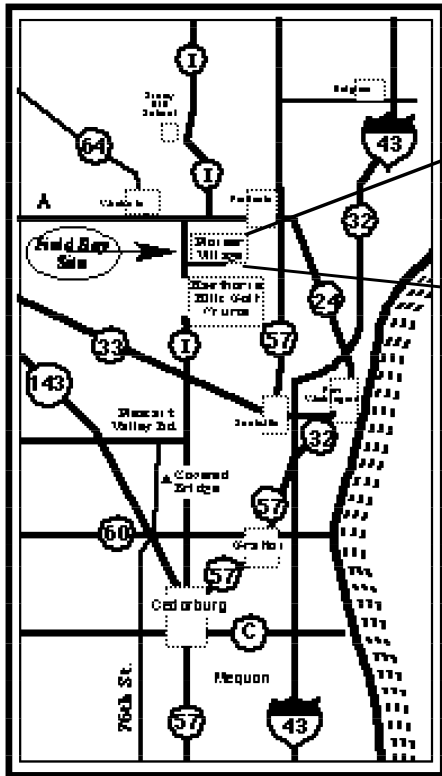
When coming to take an exam, please **bring your present original license** (if you have one) **plus a copy** for our records. Also **bring any CSCE's (and a copy of each)** which might pertain to the license upgrade for which you are striving. If you wish to apply for a grandfathered credit (for example, an old novice license credit for the EL-1 code exam) you must furnish **written proof of this credit**. Please bring along **2 forms of ID** including

one with your picture. The fee for the exam remains at \$8.⁰⁰. If you need to retake an exam element at the same session, a separate \$8.⁰⁰ fee is charged. Please bring a pen, pencils, and a simple, non-programmable calculator and **no cell phones**.

Thank you.

John (KF9XL)

John - KF9XL



Sat. and Sun. - June 28 & 29

It's an over night affair, so if you're so inclined, spend some evening or early morning hours with us (or all night)!

Talk in frequency is:
145.39 MHz + W9RH repeater 127.3 PL

Field Day is a 24 hour period in June (usually the last full weekend) set aside for fun and to see how we might do in an emergency, communications-wise.

This is an ARRL National event.

The group will get together and set up at least one station (probably more) on emergency power, (preferably out in the boondocks somewhere) and at 1800 UTC on Sat. they will start operating and gathering as many points (contacts) as possible.

Points are given for contacts with extra points being given for solar power, packet station contacts, etc.

On Sun. at noon, we stop operating and everything is taken down by whoever can be rounded up. Jerry WA9CGE gets the fun of calculating the points that our Club has earned.

It's a lot of fun and you learn a lot about your Club, Club members, operating a radio on VHF, HF and on various modes of communications (with which you may or may not be acquainted). You would even get a

chance to see our famous ladder tower which is erected with a rotator and beam antenna on top.

Plans are shaping up for this year's ARRL Field Day. **Jerry Wahlen - WA9CGE is the chairman** of the Field Day Committee for this year. If any of you out there would like to help out at the event, it would be greatly appreciated. Help is needed to set up, operate our station(s), and tear down. If interested, please, call **Jerry Wahlen - WA9CGE (414) 463-8667 or (797-MRAC)**. If you have a license but no equipment to operate or would like to try out a new mode, here's your chance to get your feet wet. Also, here's an opportunity to set up a quasi-emergency radio station and to operate HF and VHF equipment from an authentic train depot, complete with telegraph equipment and a caboose. In the past we've had HF, VHF, CW, SSB, packet, and APRS stations. Think of it as an adventure!!!

Meals will be provided. Sleeping ac-

commodations are a bit rough (depot benches - not very comfortable), so please, bring whatever you might be comfortable in (cot, blanket, sleeping bag, pillow, mosquito repellent). There is plenty of parking space, too.

This year's Field Day takes place on **Sat. - June 28 through Sun. - June 29** (officially, 1:00 PM our time on Sat. through 1:00 PM our time on Sun). We will be starting to setup around 8:30 AM. The location (arranged for by Fred Linn - W9NZF) is at Pioneer Village 10 mi. north of Cedarburg on Hwy "I".

Come on out for a couple of hours, over night, or for the whole event.

While you're out there, why not bring the family and visit the rest of Pioneer Village? It's well worth seeing.

Pancho

Pancho - KA9OFA

Recent VE Exams

Hi Pancho,
MRAC VEC conducted VE testing on April 26, 2003 at AES. There were 8 candidates, and 7 were successful in either upgrading or in qualifying for their first license. Eight elements were given, and seven were passed. VEs who attended the session included the following:

Bob Immekus - W9CYI
John Kraak - KF9XL
Ken Lyman - K9OQ
Patrick Moretti - W9UQ
Sherm Swanson - KB9Q
Mark Tellier - AB9CD

Our next exam session will be May 31, 2003 at AES.

John (KF9XL)

73, John KF9XL

Upcoming Programs

We will have our Auction at our May 29th meeting along with election of three members of the Board of Directors. Our June 26th meeting will feature Dick Wood doing a presentation on QRP.

If any of you have a program which would be interesting to our members, please don't be shy about letting us know about it. Or if you know of an interesting program by anyone else for our meetings don't hesitate, let us know about these programs. We'll see what we can do to bring them to reality.

Notes from Sherm- KB9Q

QST Donation

The 51 years of QST's donated to the club by W9GKZ - Rod was made more remarkable in that the storage space he now has is truly impressive! Remember, the ARRL Web Site has an article index that goes all the way back to "Day One" of QST so do a search there for topics your interested in and then dig into the appropriate issues.

I had QST's dating from 1979 that I put on the meeting table as I replaced them with the ARRL CD ROMs. Here is another option when doing research. If there is a specific article in QST, QEX or NCJ you want from 1995 through 2002, I can send them to you as an Email attachment.

From 1915 to 1929 and 1975 through 1994 I have QST only, and it is in a format that has to be printed. I'll be glad to do it but be selective! However, although it is not very elegant, I can also forward an Email with a useable copy from that format using "Print Screen." Don't hesitate to contact me at 262-662-3824 or kb9q@arrl.net.

PSK-31

For those of you that are not on my weekly mailing list, here is an item I published a couple of weeks ago.

"FOR THE PSK-31 ENTHUSIASTS there is a signal reporting system called PSB, that is much more rational than the banal RST, 599 reports for this mode. Check it out at <http://www.psb-info.net/> P stands for print quality, S for signal strength as noted on the waterfall, (S-meter readings are useless with PSK) and B is the bandwidth as noted on the waterfall. (Excessive harmonics are quite evident.) I use a brief macro that summarizes the reports significance to the uninitiated. As with RST reports, it is subjective but certainly more meaningful and useful to the recipient than boiler plate 599."

73,

73 Sherm KB9Q

Sherm KB9Q, (EN52vv)
kb9q@arrl.net



Ladder Tower and Beam at Field Day site at Pioneer Village 10 miles north of Cedarburg on Hwy. "I"



Field Day site (Cedarburg train depot 10 mi north of Cedarburg on Hwy "I")

EVENTS

* indicates VEC Testing

VE Testing *

Chicago Amateur Radio Club
HamFest
SUN. - MAY 25, 2003
DeVry University
Chicago, IL

MRAC General Meeting
Thu. - May 29, 2003

Princeton HamFest
SUN. - JUN. 1, 2003
Bureau Co. Fairgrounds
Princeton, IL
T/I on 146.955 MHz - (103.5 PL)

Six Meter Club of Chicago
HamFest *

SUN. - JUNE 8, 2003
DuPage Co Fairgrounds
Wheaton, IL
T/I on 146.3797 (PL 107.2Hz)

MRAC General Meeting
Thu. - Jul. 26, 2003

ARRL Field Day
SAT. & SUN. - JUN. 28&29, 2003
Pioneer Village
Cedarburg, WI

SMARC SwapFest
SAT. - JUL. 12, 2003
American Legion Post 434
9327 S. Shepard Ave.
Oak Creek, WI
T/I on 146.52 MHz simp.

FRRL HamFest *
SUN. - JUL. 20, 2003
Waubensee Community College
Sugar Grove, IL
T/I on 147.210+ PL 103.5/107.2 rpt.

MRAC General Meeting
Jul. 31, 2003

Circus City SwapFest *
SAT. - AUG. 9, 2003
Sauk Co. Fairgrounds
Baraboo, WI
T/I on 147.315+ (PL123.0 Hz) rpt.



Use it or lose it -- our Repeater.

145.390 MHz - offset and PL of 127.3Hz

Meeting Schedule

Our Meeting schedule for year
2003 through June:

Thu. - May 29, '03
Thu. - Jun. 26, '03

See you there!

Pancho
Pancho - KA9OFA

Credits

Our thanks to our news contributors
this month:

AB9CD K9LCQ KB9Q
AB9EK W9UQ

Thanks also to Rita Doneis and Mark Tellier for their help in the proofreading dept. Our thanks goes to John Merkl and Jerry Wahlen for making sure that the 'Chatter' gets printed, stamped, and mailed.

Thanks also goes to Howard Parks who administers our website.

Thanks also to Alfred Huwald, Myron Hendrickson, and Ted Stiller for obtaining and serving refreshments at our meetings.



Thanks also goes to Tom Sherlowsky and Jacquie Horwitz for taking care of the raffle at the meetings.

Thanks John Kraak and Tom Fuszard who are our VEC's

Thanks to Jerry Wahlen - WA9CGE for hosting our Friday night nets and chairing the Field Day committee.

Special thanks to all of our officers (past and present) who have tirelessly toiled for the good of the Club and Amateur Radio in general.

Thank YOU!

MRAC

Meetings are normally held the last Thursday of each month except in December.

Our next meeting is;

Thursday - May 29, 2003.

at 7:00 PM at:

Redemption Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall

4057 N. Mayfair Rd.

(Use the south entrance)

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please! Don't call the Church

Attention!!!

Program for the
May 29, 2003 MRAC
meeting is our annual
MRAC Auction along
with the election of three
of our members to the
Board of Directors.

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Visit our Website **<http://www.qsl.net/mrac/>**

Our Phone (262) 797-MRAC

797 - 6 7 2 2
.....



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M.R.A.C.